

**We claim:**

1. A film viewer comprising:  
a housing formed with a viewing window for receiving films to be viewed;  
a film grip assembly mounted on said housing adjacent said viewing window for holding films;  
a lamp disposed beneath said viewing window for illuminating said viewing window; and  
an electrical power source for providing electrical power to said lamp, wherein said housing is configured as a clipboard forming a portable film viewer.
2. The film viewer as recited in claim 1, wherein said electrical power source is DC.
3. The film viewer as recited in claim 1, wherein said electrical power source is AC.
4. The film viewer as recited in claim 1, further including an automatic control circuit for switching said source of electrical power on whenever a film is inserted into the film grip assembly and turning off said source of electrical power when said film is removed.
5. The film viewer as recited in claim 4, wherein said automatic control circuit includes a microswitch.
6. The film viewer as recited in claim 4, wherein said automatic control circuit includes an optical sensor.
7. The film viewer as recited in claim 1, wherein said housing is a molded plastic housing.
8. The film viewer as recited in claim 1, wherein said film grip assembly includes a top plate connected to the housing in a cantilever configuration defining a film receiving slot.

9. The film viewer as recited in claim 8, wherein said top plate includes one or more bosses and said film grip assembly includes one or more balls and one or more springs, said one or more balls received in said one or more bosses with said one or more springs and configured such that said one or more balls are biased toward said housing.

10. The film viewer as recited in claim 1, wherein said housing is configured to rest on a flat surface.

11. The film viewer as recited in claim 10, further including a knob for handling the device.

12. The film viewer as recited in claim 11, wherein said knob is formed on said housing to be concealed when said film viewer is resting on a flat surface.